

Message Text

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44

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 USIA-15 /043 W
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R 171224Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2590

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

UNCLAS MANAMA 1294

PASS U.S. DEPT AGRICULTURE/FAS/ETSD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EPAP, BA

SUBJECT : POSSIBLE BAHRAIN EXHIBIT SITE FOR APRIL 1976

D. SHEPPARD VISITED AND MET WITH PRINCIPAL MANAGERS BAHRAIN'S
TWO LEADING HOTELS REGARDING POSSIBILITY STAGING USDA/FAS
FOOD EXHIBIT NEXT APRIL 1976. SIMILAR TO MEETINGS EARLIER
AT KUWAIT HILTON AND SHERATON HOTELS.

A. HILTON HOTEL

1. NEW BAHRAIN HILTON HOTEL SCHEDULED TO OPEN AROUND
DECEMBER 1, 1975. AGREED TO RESERVE MAIN "GILGAMESH BALL-
ROOM" (74X62X14 FT) PLUS ANTE-ROOM (RECEPTION AND TRADE
MEETING AREA), SUBJECT TO USDA/FAS WASHINGTON APPROVAL.

2. FLOOR PLANS AND DAILY RENTAL COST(FOR PERIOD
APRIL 10-15, 1976) NOT NOW KNOWN. WHEN AVAILABLE, THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY WILL BE NOTIFIED AND INFORMATION PASSED
TO USDA/FAS/WASH.

3. HOTEL UNABLE TO HANDLE CUSTOMS CLEARANCES EXHIBIT
FOOD PRODUCTS.

4. HOTEL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDS EXHIBIT HOURS AS
11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.; 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

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5. HOTEL AGREED TO TENTATIVELY RESERVE 25 SINGLES PLUS ROOM FOR FAS EXHIBIT MANAGER. (RATES NOT KNOWN.)

6. NEED USDA/FAS/WASH APPROVAL BY COB DECEMBER 1, 1975.

B. GULF HOTEL

1. PETROLEUM CONFERENCE IN MAIN BALLROOM ("PEARL SUITE") BOOKED FOR APRIL 13, 14, 1976.

2. HOTEL TENTATIVELY MADE "PEARL SUITE" (60' LENGTH X 25' WIDTH) AVAILABLE APRIL 17 THRU 22, 1976 AT BD 100 DAILY (1 BD EQUALS ABOUT \$2.56) SUBJECT TO USDA/FAS/WASH APPROVAL. FLOOR PLANS BEING AIRPOUCHED TO OFFICE.

3. HOTEL UNABLE TO HANDLE CUSTOMS CLEARANCES EXHIBIT FOOD PRODUCTS.

4. HOTEL UNABLE TO BLOCK OFF ANY ROOMS, INSTEAD EACH PERSON MUST ARRANGE OWN HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.

5. NEED USDA/FAS/WASH APPROVAL BY COB DECEMBER 1, 1975.

C. TRADE COMMENTS

1. ALMOST UNANIMOUS OPINION OF MANY TRADERS, IMPORTERS, SUPERMARKET OWNERS, CATERERS SHEPPARD INTERVIEWED IN SAUDI ARABIA, DUBAI, BAHRAIN, EVEN EGYPT, WAS WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL TO KUWAIT TO ATTEND EXHIBIT. TWO MERCHANTS IN SAUDI ARABIA OPTED FOR ATHENS.

2. ALL INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT PLAN TO ATTEND A SHOW IN BEIRUT NEXT APRIL EVEN IF HOSTILITIES CEASED NOW.

3. BASED ON SIZE OF MARKET, PLUS FACTS IN ITEM ONE ABOVE, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, ETC., SHEPPARD RECOMMENDS STAGING SHOW IN KUWAIT HILTON AND ASSUMES RESPONSE PRO OR CON HAS ALREADY BEEN TRANSMITTED TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT.
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